What Is Claimed Is:

1	1. A method for upgrading a user environment, wherein the user
2	environment has a product with a component operable to run at a low operating
3	level and a high operating level, the component of the product being set to operate
4	at the low operating level, the method comprising:
5	associating an upgrade key with the product, the upgrade key having
6	permission instructions for the component of the product to operate at the high
7	operating level; and
8	enabling the component of the product to operate at the high
9	operating level in response to the upgrade key being associated with the produc
1,0	in order to upgrade the user environment.
1	2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2	associating a security mechanism with the product, the security
3	mechanism containing permission instructions for the component of the product to
4	run at the low operating level, wherein the security mechanism updates the
5	permission instructions for the component to run at the high operating level upor
6	the upgrade key being associated with the product.
1	3. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2	the product is a computer.
1	4. The method of claim 3 wherein:
2	the component is a central processing unit of the computer.
1	5. The method of claim 3 wherein:

2	the component is a hard disk of the computer.
1	6. The method of claim 3 wherein:
2	the component is random access memory of the computer.
1	7. The method of claim 3 wherein:
2	the component is software of the computer.
1	8. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2	the upgrade key is a cryptographic update key.
1	9. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2	associating an upgrade key with the product includes associating a
3	smart card having the upgrade key with the product.
1	10. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2	associating an upgrade key with the product includes transferring
3	the update key from the Internet to the product.
1	11. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 .	disabling the component of the product from operating at the high
3	operating level in response to the upgrade key being associated with the product
4	after expiration of a lease period.
1	12. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2	enabling includes enabling the component of the product to operate
3	at the high operating level for a single use of the product.

1	13. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2	enabling includes enabling the component of the product to operate
3	at the high operating level for multiple uses of the product.
1	14. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2	enabling includes enabling the component of the product to operate
3	at the high operating level permanently.
1	15. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2	enabling includes enabling the component of the product to operate
3	at the high operating level temporarily.
J	at the high operating level temperatury.
1	16. A system for enhancing a user environment, wherein the user
2	environment has product with a component operable to run at a low operating level
3	and a high operating level, the component of the product being set to operate at the
4	low operating level, the system comprising:
5	an upgrade key having permission instructions for the component
6	of the product to operate at the high operating level; and
7	an enabling mechanism for enabling the component of the product
8	to operate at the high operating level in response to the upgrade key being
9	associated with the product in order to upgrade the user environment.
1	17. The system of claim 16 wherein:
2	the enabling mechanism includes a security mechanism containing
3	permission instructions for the component of the product to run at the low
4	operating level, wherein the security mechanism updates the permission
5	instructions for the component to run at the high operating level upon the upgrade
6	key being associated with the product.

1	18. The system of claim 16 wherein:
2	the product is a computer.
1	19. The system of claim 18 wherein:
2	the component is a central processing unit of the computer.
1	20. The system of claim 18 wherein:
2	the component is a hard disk of the computer.
1	21. The system of claim 18 wherein:
2	the component is random access memory of the computer.
1	22. The system of claim 18 wherein:
2	the component is software of the computer.
1	23. The system of claim 16 wherein:
2	the upgrade key is a cryptographic update key.
1	24. The system of claim 16 wherein:
2	the upgrade key is contained on a smart card.
1	25. The system of claim 16 wherein:
2	the upgrade key is contained in data of the Internet.
1	26. A method for upgrading a user environment, wherein the user
2	environment has a service operable to run at a low operating level and a high

operating level, the service being set to operate at the low operating level, the
method comprising:
associating an upgrade key with the service, the upgrade key having
permission instructions for the service to operate at the high operating level; and
enabling the service to operate at the high operating level in
response to the upgrade key being associated with the service in order to upgrade
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